



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPSCS Eastern Shore Employees Searched against Commissioner's Orders

Towson, MD – Three correctional employees at Eastern Correctional Institute were strip searched without proper authorization – a direct violation of orders given by the Commissioner of the Division of Correction. The searches happened last Thursday October, 2 2008.

The officers, three females, were strip searched based on intelligence gathered that day. No other staff from the prison was searched.

While the Department cannot comment on an ongoing investigation, strip searches on DPSCS employees cannot be approved at the institutional level. In any situation, approval for these types of searches on employees can only come through the proper chain of DOC command.

Recently, as part of a contraband interdiction effort at MCTC, several employees were mistakenly subjected to strip searches. As a result of the investigation into that incident, and to prevent future occurrence, the Department began drafting a policy giving only the Secretary and DOC Commissioner (or those acting in their stead) the authority to order the strips searches of DPSCS employees. While being developed, DOC staff was ordered by the commissioner to carry out the intent of this policy and to not strip search any employees without prior approval per the Commissioner or Secretary.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' Internal Investigative Unit and the Division of Correction are working with ECI personnel to determine how the searches were allowed to happen without proper authorization.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken upon completion of the investigation. Because of State personnel laws the Department is not at liberty to discuss the details of employee employment records.